

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
U.S. Border Patrol – San Diego Sector
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NEWS RELEASE

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Agents Catch Drug Smuggler Red Handed ***More Than 228 Pounds Recovered During Arrest***

CHULA VISTA, Calif. - Determined agents followed a faint set of tracks for miles to intercept five individuals smuggling more than 228 pounds of marijuana into the United States late Monday night.

Electronic sensors alerted Border Patrol agents to the illegal entry, which occurred approximately 19 miles east of the Tecate Port-of-Entry in an area known as Cedillo Canyon. Two agents responding to the alert discovered a faint trail of footprints leading north into the harsh terrain. After tracking the group for several miles, the agents heard the sound of brush breaking. The smugglers, hearing the agents' approach, scattered and ran back south towards Mexico. Agents were able to arrest one suspect and recover four burlap sacks containing the marijuana.

The suspect, a 29-year-old Mexican national, admitted that he had smuggled the narcotics across the border with four other men that he had met in Tijuana. A records check revealed the suspect had several previous arrests by both federal and state agencies.

Both the suspect and marijuana were turned over to agents from Operation Alliance for prosecution.

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